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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of:

EASTER et al.

Serial No: PCT/US2004/008620

Filing Date: 22 March 2004

Priority Date: 20 March 2003

Atty File No.: 45568-00542

For: "APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
OSSICULAR FIXATION OF
IMPLANTABLE HEARING AID
ACTUATOR"

) Group Art Unit:

) Examiner:

) FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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EXPRESS MAIL NO. EV338033987US

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to the initial review of the above-identified patent application by the Examiner, please enter the following Preliminary Amendment. Although Applicants do not believe that any fees are due based upon the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1419.

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows: